## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of configuring a communication link interface, the method comprising:

    setting a transmit width of a transmit portion of the link interface based on a usable transmit width; and

    setting a receive width of a receive portion of the link interface based on a usable receive width.

2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the usable transmit width is the lesser of a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of the link interface and a maximum receive width of a receive portion of another communication link interface.

3. The method as in claim 1 wherein the usable transmit width is received from an external source.

4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the usable receive width is the lesser of a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the link interface and a maximum transmit width of a transmit portion of another communication link interface.

5. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

    providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining the received usable transmit width; and

    providing a maximum receive width for use in determining the received usable receive width.

6. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

    providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining a usable receive width of another communication link interface; and

    providing a maximum receive width for use in determining a usable transmit width of another communication link interface.

7. The method as in claim 1, further comprising:

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setting the transmit width to a default value prior to determining the usable
transmit width; and

setting the receive width to a default value prior to receiving the usable receive
width.

8. A communication link interface comprising:

a transmit controller to transmit data over a transmit portion of the link
interface, wherein a width of data transmitted is set according to a
value held in a programmable transmit width register; and

a receive controller to receive data over a receive portion of the link interface,
wherein a width of data received is set according to a value held in a
programmable receive width register.

9. The communication link interface as in claim 8, wherein:

the programmable transmit width register is programmable to hold a value
indicating a usable transmit width; and

the programmable receive width register is programmable to hold a value
indicating a usable receive width.

10. The communication link interface as in claim 9, wherein the usable
transmit width is the lesser of a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of
the link interface and a maximum receive width of a receive portion of another
communication link interface.

11. The communication link interface as in claim 9, wherein the usable
receive width is the lesser of a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the
link interface and a maximum transmit width of a transmit portion of another
communication link interface.

12. The communication link interface as in claim 8, further comprising:

a maximum transmit width register indicating a physical width of the transmit
portion of the link interface; and

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a maximum receive width register indicating a physical width of the receive
portion of the link interface.

13. A communication link interface comprising:

means for setting a transmit width of a transmit portion of the link interface
based on a usable transmit width; and

means for setting a receive width of a receive portion of the link interface
based on a usable receive width.

14. The communication link interface as in claim 13, wherein the usable
transmit width is the lesser of a maximum transmit width of the transmit portion of
the link interface and a maximum receive width of a receive portion of another
communication link interface.

15. The communication link interface as in claim 13, wherein the usable
receive width is the lesser of a maximum receive width of the receive portion of the
link interface and a maximum transmit width of a transmit portion of another
communication link interface.

16. The communication link interface as in claim 13, further comprising:

means for providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining the
usable transmit width; and

means for providing a maximum receive width for use in determining
the usable receive width.

17. The method as in claim 13, further comprising:

means for providing a maximum transmit width for use in determining a
usable receive width of another communication link interface; and

means for providing a maximum receive width for use in determining a usable
transmit width of another communication link interface.